

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the remarks and analysis contained in the Office Action. Claims 1, 2, 15 and 16 are amended above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application where claims 1-7 and 15-20 are currently pending.

Claims 1, 3, 7, 15 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Steffen*. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. There is no anticipation. *Steffen* does not teach an arrangement having a single material that is used to make a body portion and a sealing portion of a weather stripping. Instead, *Steffen* relies upon two different materials for the sealing pad 12 and the base 10 and sealing lip 13. Further, *Steffen* utilizes microcellular rubber which is not a thermoplastic material.

Claims 2 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the combination of *Steffen* and *Gopalan, et al.* Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. The claims cannot be considered obvious because neither reference contemplates an arrangement where a body portion and a sealing portion of weather stripping (i.e., the entire weather stripping) are made from the same thermoplastic material.

It cannot be considered obvious to modify the arrangement of *Steffen* to be made from a single material because *Steffen* specifically relies upon two different materials to achieve the sealing effect required by the teachings of that reference. One cannot modify *Steffen* to use a single material instead of two different materials without defeating the intended operation of the device disclosed in that reference and, therefore, the claims cannot be considered obvious.

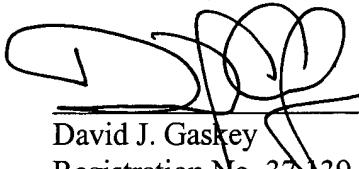
Claims 4-6 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the combination of *Steffen* and *Cha, et al.* Again, the claims cannot be considered obvious over the

Steffen reference because it requires two different materials. If one were to modify *Steffen* in an attempt to make it consistent with Applicant's claims, that would be directly contrary to the teachings of the *Steffen* reference and is not allowed under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS

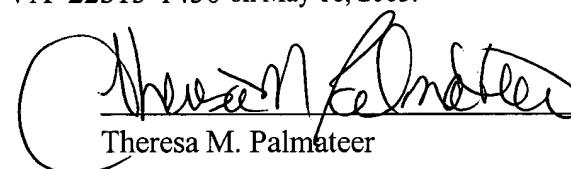


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 16, 2003.



Theresa M. Palmateer

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